



FACT SHEET

Opportunity Zones Job Tax Credits¹

- Part of the Georgia Job Tax Credit Program under O.C.G.A. 48-7-40.1(c)(4)
- Opportunity Zones are approved by Georgia Department of Community Affairs Commissioner
- Established in November, 2009, the Marietta Opportunity Zones are in existence for ten years. The zones will expire October, 2019.
- Business can be any business of any nature; not bound by “business enterprise” definition within the Opportunity Zone
- Business owner must complete an Opportunity Zone Certification form
- Business must create at least two (2) net new jobs within a tax year and the new jobs must be full-time, permanent jobs of at least 35 hours per week (Note: The two jobs may not be filled by a married couple)
- New jobs must be offered health insurance upon employment; the employer does not have to pay for such insurance, just offer it
- The average wage of the new jobs created must pay above the average wage of the county with the lowest average wage in the state – as of July 2009 this is Glascock County at \$415 per week or \$21,580 per year, per DOL (Georgia Employment & Wages– 2008 Averages)
- Jobs threshold must be created within a single tax year and tax credit may first be claimed on the initial year tax return — for example, eligible new jobs created in 2009 may claim credit on the 2009 tax return – if these jobs are then maintained for the next four years the business may claim the tax credit on each of those years tax returns as well
- Credit is claimed by filing *Form IT-CA* with the Georgia Corporation Income Tax return
- Credit may be applied against 100% of any corporate income tax liability on the Georgia Income Tax Return (credit may not be applied to net worth tax liability)
- Excess credit may be applied against withholding

Withholding Tax Credits

- Job Tax Credit claimed against withholding (WH) limited to \$3,500 per eligible job
- Credit must first be applied to any corporate income tax liability prior to claiming WH

¹ Department of Community Affairs 2009 and Forward

- Carry forward credits may not be applied to withholding
- Withholding may not be claimed on an amended tax return
- No refund is paid on withholding credits

Claiming Withholding Credit

- Business must file *Form IT-WH* with the Department of Revenue (DOR) at least 30 days prior to the filing of the original tax return in which the credit will be filed and claimed
- Business files Georgia corporation income tax return, along with *Form IT-CA*, by the due date, or extended due date
- DOR has 90 days to review the job tax credit once the return is filed
- Business will receive notification from DOR of approved credit and when to claim against WH
- Business will then apply credit to WH returns until fully utilized
- Withholding credit has no affect on employees
- Flow-through entities may elect to claim the withholding provision or flow the credit through to shareholders, partners, or members. This is an annual election so the entity can elect to claim the withholding benefit in one year and then flow the credit through the next year. This is all dependent upon the filing of *Form IT-WH*.

Form IT-CA and *Form IT-WH* may be obtained from the Department of Revenue web site at:

<https://etax.dor.ga.gov/inctax/taxcredits.aspx>